

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Notice of Allowance mailed on December 3, 2003. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of this Amendment is requested.

In this Amendment, new dependent claims 47-55 are added so that claims 1-33 and 35-55 are pending.

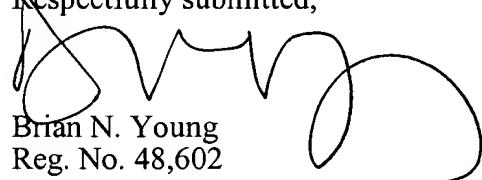
An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently with this Amendment and with the RCE. Consideration of the references cited in the IDS is requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,


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